Dublin June 12 - 1847

My dear Friend

I received your kind welcome letter last evening under cover from Mr Estlin. It is to him that the Channing has come - and he writes to me that you shall get the money and he will wait for a purchaser. I would gently like to have seen the pictures. I am not a great reader of Channing but I have his works and I respect him for the amount of courage he exhibited in his position in Jersey as far as he did with you. I think you are apt to put a good deal of that contempt for others that every early riser feels who sees other people lie in bed when he thinks it time for them to get up, or that they should have been up long ago. I think I feel a good deal enlightened by all you have told me about William Goodell. Nevertheless in some of his late letters in the Standard he says some hard things about the adherence of the old organized abolitionists to their churches & political parties as being no less pro-slavery than the parallel adherence of the Liberty men. He says that a spirit of concord which excites just indignation when pursued by Liberty men is passed over quietly when pursued by pro-slavery churchmen. It is difficult to be entirely impartial in such a question and yet if it be pro-slavery to adhere to a church (as Goodell admits it is) it is not just to stigmatize that the hatred excited by an the United States by departure from party is exceedingly malignant and I would suppose that at least in many localities of which I am a third party man as it would be a pretext to join the same enterprise. I have seen no explanation of the reasons of the Emancipators, the embezzlement of the books, or the deception of 1845 that to declare himself a third party man as it would be a pretext to join thought with a rush - Indeed, as far as I know Goodell has attempted none - He merely says that the formation of the Liberty Party was a natural peace men there, and that there is a great multitude of adherents to that party who had nothing to do with those acts, who are truly heart sick for the slaves cause, and are willing to give, and act, & suffer for his sake I cannot doubt unless we that Goodell says be untrue. It seems to me the most natural thing in the world that the Americans to whom politics are the basest

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of life should think that nothing can be done without a protected party. It seems to me from all I can gather that the Constitution of the United States is looked upon with as much as Orthodoxy Churchmen looks upon the Bible. They deem it the Palladium of their liberties, as the other is the Palladium of Truth & Religion to those who believe it an infallible revelation. I cannot wonder that the weak minds who find much difficulty in surmounting early ~~prepossessions~~ prepossessions cling to both Constitution and Bible through thick and thin and that a singularly endowed and clearheaded person like yourself are often impatient with a degree of dogged bigotry and stupidity that looks like dishonesty. When there is much bigotry and stupidity there will of course be many opportunities for dishonesty to mingle. I cannot very much wonder nor blame. I see very good people whose hearts are I think in the right place continually censured & suspected by their neighbors for the zeal they feel to defend their dogmas and doctrines through thick & thin. I can wonder at no enthusiasm to which ordinary people do for their purpose. Once persuade them that the entire salvation and the salvation of souls depends on the maintenance of any tenet, I wonder at nothing the believer does in order to secure its supremacy & prevalence. I see this in Popery - in Episcopacy - in Orthodox Dissent - every where around me. People are not clear headed - they will not discriminate - they take their own way - they will be unjust and take lies and be dishonest if they think the salvation of souls requires it. I think the real bigotry to the old reigning Establishments in the minds of all their adherents is the prevalence of heresy among them - they are looked upon as rotten sheep, and I hear their opponents dwell with white heat upon scandalous inconsistencies & practices in their efforts. They are disliked all the more where they are known for their general integrity, undaunted- edness, and talent. This is my theory. I am glad William Brodie is allowed a fair hearing before he will be answered fully & fairly whenever he prefers the bounds of reason & [illegible] observations. He does not seem to me to "go the whole hog" with any party - he asserts his own independence when the Liberty men go astray in his judgment - and he makes fair allowance on both sides. All may be wrong who differ from you & I - but they are certainly not all knave. I would certainly not imitate Maria Webb, as you say, to help two men who were trying to drive one another which she is manifestly doing - but where I believe that a man had an honest mind I would be very slow in attributing

his differing from me to a late matter. Jefferis told me he thought Goodale was a pretty honest man - and whenever a man dares to endure persecution for his opinions it is pretty certain he honestly holds them, however erroneous they may be. Under it can be shown he has some collateral motive for his endurance.

You know I think I have no good reason to believe him a very high specimen of Douglass's Kindliness of disposition. I think it evinces great ingratitude to Thompson and a want of real zeal for the cause in him to be so ready to expose the foundation of his. It is likely that jealousy of George's vast superiority had something to do with it. George is a generous fellow who has done much for Douglass and for every one who comes to him recommended as he did. [redacted] I heard a few days since that [redacted] had heard him [redacted] a movement that gentleman [redacted] had proved himself. [redacted] I [redacted] when they [redacted] to be that very few people doubted to see [redacted] mentioned the matter to you for your [redacted] and whenever any thing of the kind happens to any friend of mine or the friend of any cause that interests me I do my best to keep it quiet. It is hateful to see [redacted] I don't think [redacted] into a mischief the more for having [redacted] that insolent fellow. In New England it would perhaps be different. For my part I don't think a bit the less of him - I never inherited [redacted] or any thing more than a [redacted] with noble tendencies that needed nurturing. [redacted] family [redacted] There is chivalry for you.

As our pecuniary say. I am pained that you are so much interested with my letters in the Standard. I write for no higher approbation. Do you know that they often feel stupid to me when I have written them, but when I see them in print I think they read pretty lively. I like to feel myself of any use to the cause. The cause [illegible] very safe. I am 20 dollars for them so years ago - but they were well kept, and the binding cost more than the money. I am glad they are in such hands.

As to Miss Martin I was never but once in her company - I then liked her extremely. Perhaps because she was somewhat flatteringly attentive to

me, for I had been some months before called to attend her husband when pursuing his literary engagements in Ireland. I thought her extremely agreeable & unaffected. I would not have guessed that she was a writer of considerable eminence from anything in her demeanour or conversations. I remember that perfect very well. At the time I thought it was not here at Wilhamis. It was positively still tempered. Ireland is a redemptive thing and they who seek for it generally find that they are forth for their pains. The idea of a celebrity being destroyed by an absolution of all temper is a preference but, to be sure, Brother Jonathan's skin is astonishingly thin. Just now, James Haughton who loves poor Ireland, is extremely unpopular for the usual anti-reason. He is a commission agent & has had his purse pretty well thro' hard times, like all the dealers in provisions. He is accused as a forestaller, a monopolizer, a grinder of the faces of the poor, a destroyer of provisions because that prices should come down. James is a kindly man and is a good deal mortified - much more than he should be. I suppose the Hottentot who blows over

I think you are right to keep your money for the cause and not for the masters of runaway slaves. The abolitionist who labors faithfully does a great deal more for the slave than the tender hearted man who helps to procure the liberty of a handful of giant out to himself. I think you are right about the poor Irish too - it is a work of immense difficulty to do any thing for them except to keep them alive - and it is impossible to see them die when we have enough from them enough for ourselves. The peasantry here, and lately, is demoralized to a very great degree. Their religion is eminently demoralizing. Their priests are a bad set - all laws and all appeal to any real elevation of the multitude. All classes in Ireland with little exception are demoralized, grasping, needy, mean. The law of landlord & tenant in both England & Ireland is hostile to the tenant - but in England custom & usage throws a shield over the tenant which protects him from the landlord. In some parts of the country the people are horribly peasants - the peasantry think nothing of shooting a man for any thing or nothing. In other parts the want of power, industry, & energy is almost past belief. Ignorance & darkness of the laws are, they would have little effect in depressing an energetic, self respecting, enlightened people.

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My prevalent feelings are those of disgust and hopelessness. You can have no idea of the suffering, starvation, nakedness, filth, and degradation. You see nothing like it. Our "comfortable farmers" are flocking to your shores, and ask you may ask, if these be the comfortable farmers - the élite of the peasantry, what sort of wretches remain behind. A large part of a priests income is derived from marriage fees, and accordingly the landlord for the sake of his tenants votes and the priest for the sake of the fees have (the former until latterly about 20 years and the latter until the present year) done all they could to increase the numbers of marriages - so that Ireland would be better off if her population were less by millions provided the remainder were a respectable, industrious, enlightened people. I tell you it is a miserable country for a man to be in, and I would be heartily glad to be rid out of it. The burden of poor laws and to both an expected to be very great and most kinds of trade are now particularly dull.

I was pretty disgusted with Buffum for going about trumpeting Douglass's arrival. Douglass treated him shamefully - like a dog - so that it made me angry to witness his unfeeling behaviour towards so kind hearted a fellow. And now for James to swallow it - & go barking, like a Spaniel, after Douglass - it is contemptible.

Maxwell got no Liberty Bell - & I have not one left. If you send me, you should write something in it with your own hand. Be sure to [illegible] pester [illegible] until he writes to him of Dripsey Castle - or I'll be destroyed.

Yours ever truly

Rich D Webb

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